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detached from the housing and was immersed in the same cleaning liquid 8 as used in Example 1 for two hours with ultrasonic waves applied to the cleaning liquid 8 to vibrate the same, thereby cleaning the ultrafiltration membrane. Subsequently, with the ultrafiltration membrane attached to the housing, the ultrapure water was caused to flow through the housing, and the number of fine particles contained in the ultrapure water passed through the ultrafiltration membrane was measured by the same method as used in Examples 1 to 3. The measurement results are shown in FIG. 7.

Comparative Example 1

Using warm water of 40°C as the cleaning liquid, the ultrapure water supply system was cleaned in the same manner as in Examples 1 to 3, and then the ultrapure water produced by the system was sampled at the point of use to examine the water quality. The measurement results are shown in FIGS. 5 and 6.

Comparative Example 2

Using ultrapure water as the cleaning liquid, the ultrafiltration membrane was cleaned in the same manner as in Example 4, and then the number of fine particles in the ultrapure water produced by the cleaned system was measured. The measurement results are shown in FIG. 7.

25 Evaluation of Examples 1-5¹⁻⁴ and Comparative Examples 1-2

As is clear from FIG. 5, in the ultrapure water supply system cleaned by the cleaning methods according to Examples 1 to 3, the number of fine particles in the ultrapure water produced by the system dropped to a level lower than an allowable upper-limit value (1/mL) before a whole day passed since the start of operation of the system following the completion of the cleaning. Namely, the cleaning methods of Examples 1 to 3 proved to have high

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fine particle removing capability. [A cleaning method according to Example 5 also had excellent cleaning capability, though measurement results thereof are not illustrated. ~~1~~ On the other hand, in the system cleaned by the method according to Comparative Example 1, more than eight days were required for the number of fine particles in the ultrapure water produced by the system to drop to a level lower than the allowable upper-limit value, and thus, it was found that the cleaning method of Comparative Example 1 had poor fine particle removing capability.

Also, as seen from FIG. 6, in Examples 1 to 3, the time required for the TOC of the ultrapure water produced by the system to drop to a level lower than an allowable upper-limit value (1 $\mu\text{g/L}$) was shorter than a whole day as counted from the start of operation of the system, proving that the cleaning methods of Examples 1 to 3 also have excellent organic matter removing capability. [This is the case with Example 5 as well.] On the other hand, in Comparative Example 1, it took four to five days for the TOC to decrease to a level lower than the allowable upper-limit value, and it was found that the cleaning method of Comparative Example 1 had poor organic matter removing capability.

Further, as is clear from FIG. 7, in Examples 1 and 4, the number of fine particles decreased to a level lower than 1/mL before a whole day passed since the start of operation of the system having the cleaned filtration membrane attached thereto. Especially, in the case of Example 4, the number of fine particles dropped to a level lower than 1/mL in 12 hours. On the other hand, in Comparative Example 2, the number of fine particles did not drop below 1/mL even after the lapse of 300 hours from the start of operation of the system.